and groups in a variety of forms and ceremonies. Now therefore be it

Resolved: That on this 10th Day of March, Two Thousand and Two, Congressman Major R. Owens, and representatives of the people of the 11th Congressional District, pause to salute the sacrifices of these honored men, and to offer their heartfelt condolences to families of these African American Firefighters who died at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

That the text of this resolution shall be placed in the Congressional Record of the United States House of Representatives.

Given by my hand and seal this 10th day of March, Two Thousand and Two in the Year of our Lord.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I was not present on the following rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have voted: Rollcall 53 (HR 1885)—Yea; Rollcall 54 (journal vote)—Yea; Rollcall 55 (H.J. Res. 367: Ordering the Previous Question)—No.

TRIBUTE TO ZACH JORDAN AND THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF NORTHERN COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Zach Jordan of Loveland, Colorado. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County recently recognized Zach as Youth of the Year.

Zach has been a member of the Boys and Girls Club for four years and enjoys participating in pool tournaments and football. In an interview with the Loveland ''Reporter-Herald,'' Zach said, ''the club keeps me out of trouble, a lot of my friends are always getting into trouble with the people they hang out with.'' The guest speaker at the breakfast awards was Tom Sutherland, a former political prisoner in Lebanon who was encouraged by the contributions of the Boys and Girls clubs to keep children active and safe.

Boys and Girls Clubs are dedicated to helping youth reach their fullest potential by providing positive activities designed to promote productive citizenship and creating healthy relationships with community adults. Boys and Girls Clubs are excellent places for youth to participate in activities with their peers. I am pleased to recognize the achievements of Larimer County youth who participate in such a well-respected program.

I ask the House to join me in extending congratulations to Mr. Zach Jordan and the Larimer County Boys and Girls Club for their contribution to improving the lives of Northern Colorado Youth.

RECOGNIZING THE DELTA-MONTROSE ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the RECORD a March 5, 2001 BusinessWeek article that highlights the work of the Delta-Montrose Electrical Association (DMEA), a rural energy cooperative in southwestern Colorado.

The DMEA has been around since 1938, yet it is reinventing itself to be able to address 21st century challenges of deregulation and technological change. Its investments in research and development have resulted in innovative services it can offer its customers in the way of combined heating and cooling and fuel cell power for rural areas. In the near future, DMEA hopes to use Internet connectivity to optimize customers' energy use and reduce costs.

As the article points out, instead of trying to dominate the market, DMEA's co-op culture means that DMEA shares what it knows with other cooperatives around the country. I hope DMEA's good ideas and hard work get the attention they deserve.

CUTTING EDGE IN RURAL COLORADO?

(By Hal Clifford)

In 5 or 10 years, your relationship with your electrical utility may be different from what it is now. For a fixed fee, the power company might heat and cool your home with a geothermal heat pump it has buried in your backyard. Or your utility may offer to sell you electricity from a superclean fuel cell it installs in your garage, then buy back any excess juice you don't consume. The power company might even link itself via the Internet to your most energy-hungry appliances—maybe your air conditioner or water heater—so that it can switch them to a power-saver mode when necessary.

You might expect these sorts of high-tech innovations to pop up in energy-starved Silicon Valley, the brainchild of some tech-savvy venture capitalist. You'd be wrong. First out of the gate is the Delta-Montrose Electrical Assn. (DMEA), a 64-year old rural energy cooperative in southwestern Colorado. Any many of the new options are quickly gaining popularity with the co-op's 28,000 members.

By focusing on energy services such as heating and cooling, rather than straightforward power generation, DMEA is transforming its once-quiet business. Faster than most power players, DMEA is plugging into new technologies. In some cases, it's also forming partnerships with companies developing promising technologies—an unusual step for a once-unadventurous co-op. ''I think they're one of the most innovative co-ops in the country,'' says Peggy Plate, an energy services manager for the Energy Dept.'s Western Area Power Administration. If these strategies pay off, big utilities may soon find themselves looking to DMEA for tips on how to prosper in a new era of energy deregulation.

NEW WAVE

For now, Delta-Montrose is no more than a speck on anyone's radar. But the co-op is intensely focused on finding creative ways to deliver electric services to its customers. Like many of the other 950 or so consumer-owned electric cooperatives in the U.S., DMEA dates back to the Depression (table, page 106D). Its roots, modest size, and simple mission nurtured a conservative business culture. But in 1997, the co-op's managers and board took the measure of the coming wave of deregulation and the pace of technological change and decided to get ahead of the curve. ''We began investing hundred of thousands of dollars in research and development, which for a co-op is unheard of,'' says Edwin H. Marston, the board's president.

DMEA's first big innovation, in 1997, was a combined heating and cooling service dubbed Co-Z GeoExchange. For a fixed, year-round price, DMEA equips customers' homes and businesses with a geothermal heat pump. This device is unlike conventional furnaces and air conditioners, which heat air by means of combustion and chill it through mechanical compression. Instead, the pump circulates fluid through pipes buried underground. Even when it's cold out, the earth only a few feet below ground is always around 58F in Colorado. In winter, the pump pulls heat out of the ground and pushes it into the home. The earth's warmth is then distributed through the building, typically via an air-duct system. In cooling mode, this process is reversed.

It's a simple technology that can deliver big savings. Under a Co-Z agreement, a customer pays about $100 per month and is guaranteed a comfortable house. DMEA estimates that a 2,000-square-foot home might cost $2,645 per year to heat with propane. A Co-Z GeoExchange home can be heated for around $1,600—a savings of 40%.

So far, the service is a winner. Between late 1998 and the end of 2000, DMEA installed 115 GeoExchange systems, about half of them under Co-Z service contracts. This year, it expects to install an additional 75 to 100. The venture is already profitable, and DMEA expects that to continue. Managers say that retained earnings (akin to profits for a nonprofit co-op) on Co-Z should grow tenfold by 2005, to $478,000, from $46,000 last year. Indeed, the Co-Z contracts deliver profit margins in excess of 50%—good business in an industry that typically sees a 4% return on investment.

DMEA puts these retained earnings to work by paying down debt and developing other technologies. Fuel cells, which convert propane or hydrogen into electricity, attracted DMEA's attention because many of its customers live off the grid, in sparsely populated rural areas. True, fuel-cell power is expensive: At 25¢ to 30¢ per kilowatt hour, it's four times the average cost of power for DMEA's wire-connected residential customers. But since building out new power lines can cost $20,000 to $60,000 per mile, it's sometimes cheaper to install a fuel cell on site than to string a few miles of wire.

Once the co-op grasped this logic, it went looking for a fuel-cell maker interested in rural markets. In early 1998, the search led to a partnership with H Power Corp., a Clifton (N.J.) manufacturer of proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cells. Then, DMEA took things one step further. It put H Power together with Energy Co-Opportunity (ECO), an arm of Cooperative Finance Corp., based in Herndon, VA., which serves as a bank for electrical co-ops. The two got on so well that ECO invested $15 million in H Power and inked an $81 million deal to buy 12,300 4.5-kilowatt fuel cells—H Power's largest order to date—to be delivered to member co-ops over the next two years. Last March, H Power repaid DMEA's favor by siting its first out-of-the-laboratory test unit in the co-op's Montrose (Colo.) headquarters. DMEA, meanwhile, plans to begin leasing the fuel cells to its customers this fall.

In 1998, DMEA began work on another leg of its reinvention strategy: Internet